



USDA BROILER MARKET NEWS REPORT

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Market News Branch

NATIONAL BROILER MARKET-AT-A-GLANCE



Trade sentiment was fully steady to firm in the East, steady in the Midwest, but barely steady in the West. Retail demand was slow to fair with hopes that movement will improve by the end of the week for first of the month. Food service was light to moderate, strongest for fast food and catering businesses. Supplies were adequate to fully adequate in the West, but sufficient to closer balanced elsewhere. In the parts structure, trading was light with mixed availability. Wings were adequate to close and moved well in some areas, but slowed in others. Breast items were adequate, closest for bone-in, and dark meat was available. In production areas, live supplies were moderate at irregular, but mostly desirable weights.

GEORGIA F.O.B. DOCK PRICES The Georgia f.o.b. dock quoted price on broilers/fryers for next week's trading advanced .25 cents to 69.00 cents based on full truck load lots of ice-packed USDA grade "A" sized 2 1/2 to 3 pound birds. This compares to 61.25 cents last year on December 4, 2002.

Georgia f.o.b. dock quoted prices on ice-packed parts for next week's trading.

ITEM	DOCK PRICE (CENTS PER POUND)
LINE RUN TENDERS	198.50
BREASTS - B/S	169.00
BREASTS - WHOLE	88.50
THIGH MEAT - B/S	93.50
LEG QUARTERS	30.50
WINGS	102.00

This information is supplied by the Georgia Department of Agriculture's Poultry Market News Service.

SOUTHERN Trade sentiment was mixed, but at least steady. Retail was slow to fair with hopes that first of the month will spark interest. Food service was fair to moderate. Supplies were sufficient to closer balanced for trade needs. In the parts structure, wings continued to move very well with limited availability. Breast items were closer balanced and clearing due to increased demand from further processing and retail channels. Dark meat was mixed, but usually available. In production areas, live supplies were moderate at mostly desirable weights.

NORTHEAST Trucklot buying interest on ready-to-cook whole broiler/fryers was fair to moderate during midweek trading. Offerings of all sizes ranged balanced to adequate and were clearing with premiums noted. Movement through retail and distributive channels was about fair. The market tone was fully steady to instances firm. In the parts complex, bone-in breasts were closely cleared. Boneless-skinless breasts were adequate to available. The balance of cuts were generally sufficient.

MIDWEST Whole broiler/fryer trade sentiment continued generally steady. Offerings of whole birds and WOGS were light to moderate with heavy weights more available. Trade activity was measured and selective. Retail demand was generally quiet; aspirations were for better consumer interest by week's end. Food service movement was light to moderate. Floor stocks were adequate, weights desirable. Parts trade centered on immediate needs, generally light and best for wings. Supplies wings were in close balance overall, remainder of cuts were sufficient for trade interest. The market tone was steady to fully steady on wings and steady on all other cuts.

WESTERN Trade sentiment was barely steady. Offerings were fully adequate to cover current needs. Buyer's interest was cautious as they watched further market developments. Retailer demand was fair to fairly good best to cover features. Floor stocks adequate.

CHICK PLACEMENT AND EGG SET TOTAL

19 STATES			PERCENT CHANGE
WEEK ENDING 11/29/03	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>PREVIOUS YEAR</u>
EGGS SET	207,122	202,537	+02
CHICKS PLACED	164,879	161,690	+02

BROILER EGGS SET IN 19 SELECTED STATES UP 2 PERCENT

Commercial hatcheries in the 19-State weekly program set 207 million eggs in incubators during the week ending November 29, 2003. This was up 2 percent from the eggs set the corresponding week a year earlier. Average hatchability for chicks hatched during the week was 8: percent. Average hatchability is calculated by dividing chicks hatched during the week by eggs set three weeks earlier.

BROILER CHICKS PLACED UP 2 PERCENT

Broiler growers in the 19-State weekly program placed 165 million chicks for meat production during the week ending November 29, 2003. Placements were up 2 percent from the comparable week a year earlier. Cumulative placements from December 29, 2002 through November 29, 2003 were 7.98 billion, down slightly from the same period a year earlier.

WEEKLY FRYERS AVAILABLE FOR MARKETING Based on the preliminary chick placements, the number of fryers available for the marketing during the week ending 9-Jan-04 is estimated at 148.2 million head. This compares to 144.0 million head the previous week and to 149.1 million head the same week a year ago, when the slaughter was 154.4 million head and the composite weighted average price was 61.08 cents per pound.

DECEMBER 02, 2003

SOUTHERN STATES BROILER/FRYER PARTS

DECEMBER 03, 2003

F.O.B. DOCK OR EQUIVALENT, ICED-PACKED, PRICES SHOWN ARE DAY OF SHIPMENT (INCLUDES CURRENT AND PRIOR NEGOTIATIONS), TRUCKLOT AND LESS THAN TRUCKLOT VOLUME, CENTS PER POUND.

ITEM	POUNDS (000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG
BREAST - B/S	822	130.00-223.00	135-138	136.55
TENDERLOINS	188	141.00-215.00	142-147	152.37
BREAST - LINE RUN	82	79.00-92.50	82-83	83.82
FRONT HALVES	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
LEGS	88	37.00-51.00	37-38	38.27
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	250	26.00-29.00	26-27	26.44
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	1,005	29.00-33.00	29-30	30.18
WINGS (WHOLE)	295	99.00-102.00	-	100.03
WINGS (CUT)	555	107.00-120.00	108-111	112.23
DRUMSTICKS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
B/S THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			

 WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS TRADING FOR — F.O.B. DOCK.

RANGE	TODAY'S AVERAGE
50.50 - 54.50	52.08

ITEM	POUNDS (000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG
BREAST - B/S	887	129.00-223.00	130-135	132.90
TENDERLOINS	232	141.00-215.00	141-147	151.35
BREAST - LINE RUN	102	79.00-93.00	82-84	83.66
FRONT HALVES	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
LEGS	103	35.00-51.00	36-37	37.80
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	270	26.00-29.00	26	26.48
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	1,175	29.00-32.00	29-30	29.50
WINGS (WHOLE)	427	99.00-109.00	107-109	105.41
WINGS (CUT)	337	109.00-119.00	115-117	113.07
DRUMSTICKS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
B/S THIGHS	82	84.00-100.00	-	90.24

 F.O.B. DOCK.

RANGE	TODAY'S AVERAGE	5-DAY AVERAGE
50.50 - 55.00	52.65	52.37

The Index is intended solely as an indicator of values for commodity-type product and does not represent industry's willingness to sell or ability to buy.

NORTHEAST BROILER/FRYER PARTS

Trucklot buying activity remained fair to moderate during midweek trading. Offerings of bone-in breasts were in good balance. Boneless skinless breasts were at least sufficient. The balance of cuts were generally adequate for current needs. Retail and distributive movement was about fair. The market tone was fully steady to instances firm on bone-in breasts and about steady on the balance.

*PRICES PAID PER POUND, ICE PACKED AND CO2 PACKED BROILER/FRYER PARTS, DELIVERED TO FIRST RECEIVERS IN POOL TRUCKLOT AND TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES. DECEMBER 02, 2003

ITEM	CURRENT NEG TRADING*	WTD AVG**	VOL/LBS
BREAST - B/S	145	143.48	594,320
TENDERLOINS	145	143.84	139,230
BREAST - WITH RIBS	74-75	78.81	201,800
BREAST - LINE RUN	74	75.59	74,640
LEGS	38-39	36.09	279,281
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	29-30	29.52	507,589
DRUMSTICKS	36-37	38.55	89,120
THIGHS	34-35	40.75	53,360
B/S THIGHS	85-86	87.96	56,620
WINGS (WHOLE)	93-94	103.83	104,680
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	12.05	32,480
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	35-40	38.08	13,940
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	60-65	63.77	28,330

INCLUDES: NY CITY METRO. AREA, RI, NORTHERN NJ, MA, CT, PA (NORTHEAST OF HARRISBURG).

* TODAY'S NEGOTIATED SALES AS OF 11:30 A.M.

** WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE OF ALL GRADES AND BRANDS OF PRODUCT SHIPPED, OR TO BE SHIPPED AS OF 1:30 P.M.

DECEMBER 03, 2003

ITEM	CURRENT NEG TRADING*	WTD AVG**	VOL/LBS
BREAST - B/S	145	144.87	675,240
TENDERLOINS	145	145.83	113,620
BREAST - WITH RIBS	75-76	82.87	138,320
BREAST - LINE RUN	75	77.01	128,440
LEGS	38-39	37.65	362,000
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	29-30	30.06	239,163
DRUMSTICKS	36-37	39.27	130,760
THIGHS	34-35	40.20	56,720
B/S THIGHS	85-86	90.50	86,160
WINGS (WHOLE)	93-94	98.21	146,640
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	11.89	53,320
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	35-40	30.78	13,560
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	60-65	64.26	26,240

ESTIMATED SLAUGHTER OF BROILER-FRYERS (IN THOUSANDS)

	ESTIMATED	ACTUAL	AVG WTS	ACTUAL	AVG WTS
	12/03	12/02	12/01	11/28	11/26
ALA	3,946	3,898	3,754	2,931	5.19
ARK	5,232	5,355	4,812	4,445	5.13
DELMARVA	2,015	2,189	2,191	2,021	5.72
KY-LA-TN	2,026	1,970	2,056	1,856	5.07
MISS	3,083	3,079	3,078	1,944	5.55
NC	2,492	2,396	2,259	1,913	6.45
TEXAS	2,472	2,496	2,501	2,466	5.06
TOTAL	21,266	21,383	20,651	17,576	5.40
MON-WED63,383(A)					5.27
					20,348
					5.30

(A) Weekly cumulative for states listed above. Broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for 12/3 is estimated to be 31,816,000 up 4.2 percent from a week ago and up 8.4percent from a year ago.
 (Last week 30,534,000; last year 29,343,000)

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (L.A. AREA) PROCESSED POULTRY

DELIVERED TO RETAILERS	RANGE
FRESH FRYERS	91-97
ROASTERS 4# & UP	81-95
HENS UNDER 5#	-
HENS OVER 5#	60-63
DUCKS	-
RABBITS-WHOLE	-
RABBITS-CUT UP	-

SAN FRANCISCO PROCESSED POULTRY

DELIVERED TO RESTAURANTS AND INSTITUTIONS

FRESH FRYERS	DRY PACK	101-103
	ICE PACK	99-100
ROASTERS 4# & UP	DRY PACK	89-105
	ICE PACK	105
HENS OVER 5#	ICE PACK	91
	DRY PACK	89
DUCKS		152-175

ESTIMATED U.S. LIVE POULTRY SLAUGHTER

UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION FOR WEEK ENDING 06-DEC-03

CLASS	CURRENT WEEK	PREVIOUS WEEK
	12/06/03 (1)	11/29/03
THOUSAND HEAD		
BRO-FRY	157,263 (2)	123,256
LT HENS	1,525	727
HVY HENS	1,486	972
CHECK TOTAL	160,274	124,955

(1)ESTIMATED

(2)The estimated number of broiler-fryers available for slaughter the week ending 06-Dec-03 is 150.2 million head compared to 153.8 million head slaughtered the same week last year. The estimated U.S. slaughter this week is 157.6 million head or 7.4 million more than estimated available. For week of 13-Dec-03 the estimated available is 150.2 million head.

WEEKLY COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS-SELECTED STGE CENTERS
(INCL GOVT STOCKS) (IN THOUSANDS)

	PROCESSED TURKEY	PROCESSED POULTRY
	LBS	LBS
AM 12/01/03	110,555	45,473
AM 11/01/03	182,037	44,797
CHG	-71,482	676
PCT CHG	-39	2

COLD STORAGE MOVEMENT (IN THOUSANDS)

	PROCESSED TURKEYS			PROCESSED POULTRY		
	12/01/03	11/24/03	12/02/02	12/01/03	11/24/03	12/02/02
PACIFIC						
COAST	10,948	16,860	9,327	3,653	3,835	5,659
LOS ANGELES	410	426	94	1,832	1,727	3,894

CENTRAL MISCELLANEOUS POULTRY RTC HENS

READY-TO-COOK PRICES NEGOTIATED FOR DELIVERY TO FIRST RECEIVERS, U.S. GRADE A AND PLANT GRADE, 5 LBS. AND UP, FOR WEEK OF DECEMBER 1, 2003

HENS	ICE PACKED (12 PER BOX)	RANGE
		58-65
	VACUUM PACKED (6-9 PER BOX)	66-76

HACKETTSTOWN POULTRY SALES

	FOR 12/02/03		
	LOW	HIGH	AVG
HEAVY FOWL lb.	.30	.80	.47
LIGHT FOWL lb.	.15	.35	.22
MIXED FOWL lb.	-	-	-
BANTAMS lb.	-	-	-
BROILERS lb.	.25	.35	.30
ROASTERS lb.	-	-	-
FRYERS lb.	-	-	-
CHICKS lb.	-	-	-
PULLETS lb.	-	.55	-
BUNNIES lb.	-	.45	-
ROOSTERS lb.	-	-	-
GEESE lb.	.40	1.30	.79
TURKEYS lb.	.15	.75	.26
DUCKS lb.	.50	1.00	.74
RABBITS lb.	.40	.95	.83
PIGEONS lb.	-	-	-
GUINEA FOWL lb.	-	-	-
DUCKLINGS lb.	-	-	-
GUINEA KEETS ea.	-	-	-
SILKIES ea.	-	-	-
GUINEA PIGS ea.	-	-	-
CHUKARS ea.	-	-	-
TOTAL COOPS	116		

MAJOR WHOLESALE MARKETS - Mexico City

Cents per pound for the week ending November 28, 2003

	Whole	Legs	Necks,Back	Livers/	Hens
	Chickens	Breasts	w/ Thighs	&Wings	Gizzards
RAYON					
Low	39.01	99.52	55.73	11.94	11.94
High	40.61	107.49	59.71	15.92	15.92
Mostly	39.01	107.49	55.73	11.94	11.94

SAN JUAN

Low	39.01	99.52	55.73	11.94	11.94
High	39.81	107.49	59.71	15.92	15.92
Mostly	39.01	103.51	55.73	11.94	11.94

NEW SAN JUAN

Low	38.62	99.52	55.73	7.96	11.94
High	39.81	107.49	59.71	15.92	15.92
Mostly	39.01	107.49	55.73	11.94	11.94

BECERRA

Low	39.01	99.52	55.73	11.94	11.94
High	40.61	107.49	59.71	15.92	15.92
Mostly	39.01	107.49	59.71	11.94	15.92

DELMARVA Movement of ready-to-cook whole birds remained mostly seasonal and was sufficient in keeping the bulk of available offerings in good balance to well cleared. Live supplies were moderate; weights were light to heavy, mostly desirable to heavy. Processor schedules were moderate to light. Less than trucklot asking prices were unchanged to 1 cent higher at 62 to 71 cents. Trade sentiment was fully steady to firm. In the parts complex, bone-in breast were generally well cleared. Boneless/skinless breasts were adequate and moving into a closer better balance. Drums were readily available and wings were slow in spots.

*BROILER/FRYER CURRENT NEGOTIATED PRICES FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY INCLUDES MOSTLY MULTIPLE-DROP SHIPMENTS OF BRANDED AND WING TAGGED TO NEW YORK CITY FROM DELMARVA

**BRANDED
U.S. GRADE A**

RANGE	60-77
WEIGHTED AVERAGE	64.18
NO. OF BOXES	7,711

*7 of 7 plants reporting.

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